

made thereto, is attached. Note that all claims currently pending in this application are being reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

230. (Amended) ) An information processing apparatus comprising:

*Subcat*  
a connection unit, arranged for connecting a detachable external device to said information processing apparatus;

a recognition unit, arranged for recognizing connection of the external device to said information processing apparatus;

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a discrimination unit, arranged for discriminating a device type of the external device connected by said connection unit on the basis of data stored in the connected external device; and

a loading unit, arranged for, in response to said recognition unit recognizing connection of the external device, selecting a device driver program for controlling the connected external device in the external device or a device driver program for controlling the connected external device in a memory area provided in said information processing apparatus, on the basis of the device type discriminated by said discrimination unit, and loading the selected device driver program.

231. (Unamended) An apparatus according to claim 230, further comprising a control unit arranged for controlling the connected external device based on the device driver program loaded by said loading unit.

232. (Unamended) An apparatus according to claim 230, further comprising a reading unit arranged for reading data indicating the device type of the connected external device from the external device, wherein said discrimination unit discriminates the device type on the basis of the data read by said reading unit.

233. (Unamended) An apparatus according to claim 230, wherein said information processing apparatus is an electronic camera.

234. (Amended) A method of loading a device driver program for controlling an external device detachably connected to an information processing apparatus, said method comprising:

a recognizing step of recognizing connection of the external device to the information processing apparatus;

a discriminating step of discriminating a device type of the connected external device on the basis of data stored in the connected external device; and

a loading step of, in response to said recognizing step recognizing connection of the external device, selecting the device driver program in the external device or the device driver program in a memory area provided in the information processing apparatus, on the basis of the discriminated device type, and loading the selected device driver program.

235. (Unamended) A method according to claim 234, further comprising a controlling step of controlling the connected external device based on the device driver program loaded in said loading step.

236. (Unamended) An apparatus according to claim 234, further comprising a reading step of reading data indicating the device type of the connected external device from the external device, wherein said discriminating step discriminates the device type on the basis of the data read in said reading step.

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237. (Amended) A computer program for instructing an information processing apparatus to perform:

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a recognizing step of recognizing connection of an external device to the information processing apparatus;

a discriminating step of discriminating a device type of the connected external device on the basis of data stored in the connected external device; and

a loading step of, in response to said recognizing step recognizing connection of the external device, selecting a device driver program in the external device or the device driver program in a memory area provided in the information processing apparatus, on the basis of the discriminated device type, and loading the selected device driver program.

238. (Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a discrimination unit, arranged for discriminating whether an external device is a first type of device in which a memory is provided for storing a device driver program for controlling the external device or a second type of device in which the memory is not provided; and

a loading unit, arranged for selecting the device driver program for controlling the external device in the memory provided in the external device or the device driver program in a

memory provided in said information processing apparatus, on the basis of the device type discriminated by said discrimination unit, and loading the device driver program in the memory provided in the external device if the device driver program in the memory provided in the external device is selected.

239. (Unamended) An apparatus according to claim 238, further comprising a recognition unit arranged for recognizing connection of the external device to said information processing apparatus, wherein said discrimination unit discriminates the device type in response to said recognition unit recognizing the connection of the external device.

240. (Unamended) An apparatus according to claim 238, wherein said discrimination unit discriminates the device type based on data stored in the external device.

241. (Unamended) An apparatus according to claim 238, wherein said loading unit loads the device driver program for controlling the external device from a memory provided in said information processing apparatus if said discrimination unit discriminates that the external device is the second type of device.

242. (Unamended) An apparatus according to claim 238, wherein said information processing apparatus is an electronic camera.

243. (Unamended) An information processing apparatus comprising a processor unit, arranged for performing:

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a discriminating step of discriminating whether an external device is a first type of device in which a memory is provided for storing a device driver program for controlling the external device or a second type of device in which the memory is not provided; and

XX  
a loading step of loading the device driver program for controlling the external device from the memory provided in the external device if said discriminating step discriminates that the external device is the first type of device.

244. (Amended) A method of loading a device driver program for controlling an external device, comprising:

a discriminating step of discriminating whether the external device is a first type of device in which a memory is provided for storing the device driver program or a second type of device in which the memory is not provided; and

a loading step of selecting the device driver program in the memory provided in the external device or the device driver program in a memory provided in the information processing apparatus, on the basis of the device type discriminated in said discriminating step, and loading the device driver program in the memory provided in the external device if the device driver program in the memory provided in the external device is selected.

245. (Unamended) A method according to claim 244, further comprising a recognizing step of recognizing connection of the external device to an information processing apparatus, wherein said discriminating step discriminates the device type in response to said recognizing step recognizing the connection of the external device.

246. (Unamended) A method according to claim 244, further comprising a reading step of reading data stored in the external device, wherein said discriminating step discriminates the device type based on the read data.

247. (Unamended) A method according to claim 244, wherein said loading step loads the device driver program for controlling the external device from a memory provided in an information processing apparatus if said discriminating step discriminates that the external device is the second type of device.

248. (Amended) A computer program for instructing an information processing apparatus to perform:

a discriminating step of discriminating whether an external device is a first type of device in which a memory is provided for storing a device driver program for controlling the external device or a second type of device in which the memory is not provided; and

a loading step of selecting the device driver program in the memory provided in the external device or the device driver program in a memory provided in the information processing apparatus, on the basis of the device type discriminated in said discriminating step, and loading the device driver program in the memory provided in the external device if the device driver program in the memory provided in the external device is selected.

249. (Unamended) A program according to claim 248, wherein said program further instructs the information processing apparatus to perform a recognizing step of recognizing connection of the external device to the information processing apparatus, wherein

said discriminating step discriminates the device type in response to said recognizing step recognizing the connection of the external device.

250. (Unamended) A program according to claim 248, wherein said program further instructs the information processing apparatus to perform a reading step of reading data stored in the external device, wherein said discriminating step discriminates the device type based on the read data.

251. (Unamended) A program according to claim 248, wherein said loading step comprises loading the device driver program for controlling the external device from a memory provided in the information processing apparatus if said discriminating step discriminates that the external device is the second type of device.

252. (Amended) A device detachably connected to an information processing apparatus, said device comprising:

a memory unit, arranged for storing information which indicates a device type of said device and storing a device driver program for controlling said device, wherein the information processing apparatus discriminates the device type of said device on the basis of the information stored in said memory unit, selects the device driver program stored in said memory unit or a device driver program for controlling said device stored in the information processing apparatus, and loads the device driver program from said device into the information processing apparatus if the driver program stored in said memory unit is selected.

253. (Unamended) A device according to claim 252, wherein the information processing apparatus discriminates whether said device is a first type of device in which a memory is provided for storing the device driver program or a second type of device in which the memory is not provided on the basis of the information stored in said memory unit.

(Please add Claims 254-256 as follows.)

--254. (New) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a discrimination unit, arranged for discriminating a device type of an external device on the basis of data stored in the external device; and

a loading unit, arranged for selecting a device driver program for controlling the external device in the external device or a device driver program for controlling the external device in a memory area provided in said information processing apparatus, on the basis of the device type discriminated by said discrimination unit, and loading the selected device driver program.

255. (New) A method of loading a device program for controlling an external device, said method comprising:

a discriminating step of discriminating a device type of the external device on the basis of data stored in the external device; and

a loading step of selecting the device driver program in the external device or the device driver program in a memory area provided in the information processing apparatus, on the